

# Grand Canyon

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park  
Arizona



## Enjoying Your Visit to the South Rim

A visit to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park offers spectacular views of one of our nation's greatest natural treasures and promotes memories that last a lifetime. To help make your time here more enjoyable, consider these tips.

One of the following passes is required to enter the park. Fees collected directly benefit visitors to Grand Canyon National Park and other National Park Service managed sites.

### What entrance pass works best for you?

#### Single Visit Pass

##### Vehicle Pass – \$25.00

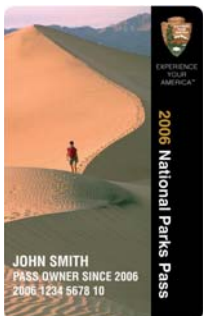
This pass admits one single, private, non-commercial vehicle with all its passengers.

##### Individual Pass – \$12.00

One individual entering by foot, bicycle, or motorcycle may use this pass.

- The pass is valid for up to seven (7) days at any entrance. Persons staying less than seven days are not eligible for reduced rates.
- Fees will not be refunded due to weather conditions.

#### National Parks Pass



Your best option if you plan to visit other National Park Service sites during the next year

##### National Park Pass – \$50.00

This pass, valid for 12 months from the date of purchase, allows admission to any National Park Service site that charges an entrance fee. It admits the purchaser and any accompanying persons in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle. When entry is by other means (train, shuttle, bicycle, foot or boat) this pass admits the purchaser and **accompanying** immediate family (spouse, children, and parents). The pass covers entrance fees only, not user fees such as campgrounds.

It is **NOT** refundable or transferable.

##### Hologram – \$15.00

This sticker upgrades the National Park Pass to include other federal recreation areas that require an entrance fee — U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or Tennessee Valley Authority. Like the National Park Pass, it admits the purchaser and any accompanying person in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle entry into the facility.

### Do you qualify for one of these passes?

#### Golden Age Passport – \$10.00

(one time charge)

This lifetime pass is issued to those **62** years of age or older who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States. It provides the same privileges as the National Park Pass, plus allows a 50% discount in most federally operated campgrounds. It must be purchased in person with proof of eligibility. As with other passes, it is **NOT** refundable or transferable.

Please have picture identification for age verification available.

#### Golden Access Passport – no charge

This lifetime pass is issued free of charge to individuals, regardless of age, who have a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Such activities may include caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, or working. This passport must be applied for in person with documentation of disability available or a Statement of Disability signed. It is given to individuals who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States. This passport is **NOT** transferable.

**Entrance fees are not refundable. Passes may not be sold or transferred to others.**

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## Where can I see the canyon?

The rim of the canyon is still several miles ahead. Follow the road north until you see a flashing yellow signal. Proceed carefully straight through the intersection. Shortly you will come to a stop sign for the intersection with Desert View Drive, the eastward extension of Arizona Highway 64. Continue driving straight through the crossroads and within ½ mile (1 km) you will arrive at Mather Point, the first canyon viewpoint.

Everyone wants to stop at the first overlook, so Mather Point is often extremely congested with parking difficult to find. There are two nearby options: Yavapai Point, approximately ½ mile (1 km) west of Mather Point and Park Headquarters (Parking Lot A) about 1 mile (1.6 km) west. Unlike Mather Point both of these areas offer restrooms, easy access to the free shuttle buses, and canyon views. The viewpoint at Park Headquarters requires a 0.4 mile (0.6 km) walk on a paved trail. Other viewing areas occur near El Tovar Hotel and along Hermit Road which is reachable by shuttle bus only March through November.

An alternative to avoid some of the congestion is to turn right onto Desert View Drive (Highway 64 East). The first viewpoint, two small parking areas, is less than a mile (1.6 km). A larger viewing area, curiously named Duck on a Rock Vista, comes up about 3 miles (5 km) from the intersection. Other vistas are found farther along the 26 miles (42 km) to Desert View.

**Roads, viewpoints, and facilities are shown on maps in the park newspaper, *The Guide*.**

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## Where can I get the information I need?



**Read *The Guide***, the park newspaper. You receive the paper when you enter the park. Obtain additional copies at any visitor center.

*The Guide* answers most questions you may have about the park. Maps show the location of parking, campgrounds, lodging, and other facilities. Articles discuss geology, plants and animals, hiking, and park programs. All lodging, restaurants, and other services and their hours of operation are listed.

*The Guide* is available in French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

**Stop by the Visitor Center**, located in Canyon View Information Plaza just south of Mather Point. Here you will find orientation information, displays, restrooms, and rangers to answer your questions.

You cannot drive to the visitor center. The easiest way to get there is to park your car and ride the free shuttle bus (see next section). You can also park at Mather Point and walk approximately 300 yards to the Visitor Center. Another alternative is to park at Market Plaza and walk or ride a bicycle about a mile on the Greenway Trail.

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## How do I get around the South Rim?

**P Park your car.** On a first-time visit, park roads can be confusing and facilities may be hard to find.

The National Park Service has developed several parking areas. See the maps in *The Guide* for the location of these parking areas. Many parking lots are near facilities or the canyon rim. Each parking lot has a shuttle bus stop nearby.

**Tip for RVers:** Parking Lot E near the Backcountry Information Center has some large, pull-through spaces. The longest spaces are in the section of the lot south of the Backcountry Information Center.

**Ride the free shuttle.** This is the best bargain in the park. The shuttles are free, they operate from before dawn to after sunset, come by frequently, and the drivers never get lost. You can get on and off at any stop as many times as you want.

The free shuttle bus system consists of three non-overlapping loops:

**Hermits Rest Route** takes in 8 miles of the rim west of Grand Canyon Village.

**Village Route** serves hotels, restaurants, Visitor Center, and overlooks in the developed area.

**Kaibab Trail Route** heads east of the Visitor Center to Yaki Point and South Kaibab Trail.

The centerfold of *The Guide* features a map of shuttle bus routes, stops, and times.

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## How can I re-enter the park?

Park gates are always open. If you already have an entry pass, it is quicker to:

- Use lane 1, the left-most lane.
- Have your pass ready to show.
- Arrive early, before 10:00 a.m.
- Avoid the crowds around midday and sunset.
- Save most of your questions for the rangers at the Visitor Center.
- Consider carpooling, if you are with a large group.